

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 364

Recognizing the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Special Forces and honoring the “Father of the Special Forces”, Colonel Aaron Bank (United States Army, retired) of Mission Viejo, California, for his role in establishing the Army Special Forces.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2002

Mr. COX submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Special Forces and honoring the “Father of the Special Forces”, Colonel Aaron Bank (United States Army, retired) of Mission Viejo, California, for his role in establishing the Army Special Forces.

Whereas June 20, 2002, is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the first permanent special operations force of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the first such special operations force was created in response to the advocacy of Colonel Aaron Bank (United States Army, retired), known as the “Father of the Special Forces”;

Whereas Colonel Aaron Bank's service in the Office of Strategic Services and his experience leading resistance fighters against Nazi Germany convinced him of the need for permanent, elite units in the Armed Forces that would specialize in small unit and counterinsurgency tactics, intelligence operations, and the training of indigenous soldiers;

Whereas in 1952 the Army created the first permanent special operations force, the 10th Special Forces Group, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the soldiers of which were known for their distinctive green berets;

Whereas Colonel Aaron Bank was assigned as the first commanding officer of the 10th Special Forces Group;

Whereas the success of the Army Special Forces encouraged the creation of permanent special operations forces in the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps;

Whereas these special operations forces have helped revolutionize the conduct of modern warfare;

Whereas special operations soldiers have served with bravery and distinction in every major military conflict in which the United States has been involved in the last 50 years and in innumerable covert operations;

Whereas special operations soldiers are sometimes called upon to conduct missions so secret that their bravery cannot be fully recognized;

Whereas special operations soldiers are playing a critical role in the war against terrorism; and

Whereas thanks to Colonel Aaron Bank and the thousands of special operations soldiers who have followed him, the Armed Forces are better prepared to conduct unconven-

tional warfare and to protect the United States from developing threats: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the historic significance of the
 4 50th anniversary of the founding of the United
 5 States Army Special Forces;

6 (2) honors the “Father of the Special Forces”,
 7 Colonel Aaron Bank (United States Army, retired)
 8 of Mission Viejo, California, for his role in estab-
 9 lishing the Army Special Forces;

10 (3) recognizes the sacrifices and accomplish-
 11 ments of Army Special Forces soldiers and of all
 12 other special operations soldiers in the Armed
 13 Forces;

14 (4) expresses deep gratitude for the continuing
 15 sacrifices of Army Special Forces soldiers and of all
 16 other special operations soldiers in the Armed
 17 Forces now fighting throughout the world in defense
 18 of the freedoms challenged by the heinous events of
 19 September 11, 2001; and

20 (5) honors the sacrifices made by the special
 21 operations soldiers of the Armed Forces who have
 22 trained hard, served valiantly in battle, and made
 23 the ultimate sacrifice to their country, many times

- 1 in missions so secret that their valor may never be
- 2 fully acknowledged.

